

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2019 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 519**

BY SENATORS MARONEY, PLYMALE, STOLLINGS,

WOELFEL, TAKUBO, BOSO, AND SWOPE

[Introduced February 4, 2019; Referred  
to the Committee on Health and Human Resources; and  
then to the Committee on Finance]



1 A BILL to amend and reenact §24-6-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
2 to requiring persons employed to dispatch emergency calls in county emergency dispatch  
3 centers to complete a training course in emergency cardiovascular care for telephonic  
4 cardiopulmonary resuscitation; requiring training to be completed by a certain date; and  
5 requiring calls to be transferred to call center in certain circumstances.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 6. LOCAL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM.**

**§24-6-5. Enhanced emergency telephone system requirements.**

1 (a) An enhanced emergency telephone system, at a minimum, shall provide that:

2 (1) All the territory in the county, including every municipal corporation in the county, which  
3 is served by telephone company central office equipment that will permit such a system to be  
4 established shall be included in the system: *Provided*, That if a portion of the county or a portion  
5 of a municipal corporation within the county is already being served by an enhanced emergency  
6 telephone system, that portion of the county or municipality may be excluded from the county  
7 enhanced emergency telephone system;

8 (2) Every emergency service provider that provides emergency service within the territory  
9 of a county participate in the system;

10 (3) Each county answering point be operated constantly;

11 (4) Each emergency service provider participating in the system maintain a telephone  
12 number in addition to the one provided in the system; and

13 (5) If the county answering point personnel reasonably determine that a call is not an  
14 emergency, the personnel provide the caller with the number of the appropriate emergency  
15 service provider.

16 (b) To the extent possible, enhanced emergency telephone systems shall be centralized.

17 (c) In developing an enhanced emergency telephone system, a county commission or the  
18 West Virginia State Police shall seek the advice of both the telephone companies providing local  
19 exchange service within the county and the local emergency providers.

20 (d) As a condition of employment, a person employed as the director of an emergency  
21 dispatch center who dispatches emergency calls or supervises the dispatching of emergency call  
22 takers is subject to an investigation of their character and background. This investigation shall  
23 include, at a minimum, a criminal background check conducted by the State Police at its expense.  
24 A felony conviction shall preclude a person from holding any of these positions.

25 (e) As a condition of continued employment, persons employed to dispatch emergency  
26 calls in county emergency dispatch centers shall successfully complete:

27 (1) A 40-hour nationally recognized training course for dispatchers within one year of the  
28 date of their employment;

29 (2) A nationally recognized training course in emergency cardiovascular care for  
30 telephonic cardiopulmonary resuscitation selected by the medical director of an emergency  
31 medical dispatch center. This training course shall incorporate protocols for out-of-hospital cardiac  
32 arrest and compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation and continuing education, as  
33 appropriate. The training requirements of this subdivision are effective not later than July 1, 2020.  
34 Persons employed subsequent to July 1, 2019, shall complete the training within one year of the  
35 date of employment; and

36 (3) An additional nationally recognized emergency medical dispatch course or an  
37 emergency medical dispatch course approved by the Office of Emergency Medical Services not  
38 later than July 1, 2013, or if employed subsequent to July 1, 2013, within one year of the date of  
39 employment.

40 (f) On or before July 1, 2013, the director of each county emergency dispatch center shall  
41 develop policies and procedures to establish a protocol for dispatching emergency medical calls  
42 implementing a nationally recognized emergency medical dispatch program or an emergency

43 medical dispatch program approved by the Office of Emergency Medical Services: *Provided*, That  
44 a county emergency dispatch center, which utilizes a one-button transfer system, may continue  
45 to use this system if the county emergency dispatch center establishes policies and procedures  
46 which require the agency to whom the call is transferred to remain on the call until a first responder  
47 arrives.

48 (g) Each county or municipality shall appoint for each answering point an enhanced  
49 emergency telephone system advisory board consisting of at least six members to monitor the  
50 operation of the system. The board shall be appointed by the county or municipality and shall  
51 include at least one member from affected:

- 52 (1) Fire service providers;
- 53 (2) Law-enforcement providers;
- 54 (3) Emergency medical providers;
- 55 (4) Emergency services providers participating in the system; and
- 56 (5) Counties or municipalities.

57 The director of the county or municipal enhanced telephone system shall serve as an ex  
58 officio member of the advisory board.

59 (h) The initial advisory board shall serve staggered terms of one, two, and three years.  
60 The initial terms of these appointees shall commence on July 1, 1994. All future appointments  
61 shall be for terms of three years, except that an appointment to fill a vacancy shall be for the  
62 unexpired term. All members shall serve without compensation. The board shall adopt such  
63 policies, rules, and regulations as are necessary for its own guidance. The board shall meet  
64 monthly or quarterly. The board may make recommendations to the county or municipality  
65 concerning the operation of the system.

66 (i) Nothing herein contained may be construed to prohibit or discourage in any way the  
67 establishment of multijurisdictional or regional systems, or multijurisdictional or regional  
68 agreements for the establishment of enhanced emergency telephone systems, and any system

69 established pursuant to this article may include the territory of more than one public agency, or  
70 may include only a portion of the territory of a public agency.

71 (i) All public safety answering points that answer calls for emergency medical conditions  
72 shall, in the appropriate circumstances, provide telephonic assistance in administering  
73 cardiopulmonary resuscitation directly or transfer calls to a call center to provide assistance in  
74 administering telephonic cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require persons employed to dispatch emergency calls in county emergency dispatch centers to complete a training course in emergency cardiovascular care for telephonic cardiopulmonary resuscitation and requiring calls to be transferred to call center in certain circumstances.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.